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WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1. A calcium tartrate composition comprising particles having a mean particle size less than about 30 μm .
- 2. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about 25 μ m.
- 3. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about 20 μm .
- 4. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about $18 \mu m$.
- 5. The composition according to claim 1, wherein the mean particle size is less than about $15\mu m$.
- 6. The composition of claim 1, wherein less than 5% of particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .
- 7. The composition of claim 6, wherein less than 1% of particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μm .
- 8. The composition of claim 6, wherein less than 0.1% of particles have a particle size greater than about 40 μ m.
- 9. A method for preparing a calcium tartrate composition comprising particles having a mean particle size less than about 30 μm, comprising the following steps:

submitting maleic acid to an enzymatic catalytic epoxidation thereby obtaining cis-epoxysuccinate,

submitting said cis-epoxysuccinate to the action of an epoxide hydrolase thereby producing L-tartaric acid;

precipitating said L-tartaric acid with CaCl₂ thereby obtaining calcium tartrate crystals; and

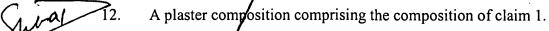
recovering the calcium tartrate crystals to obtain a calcium tartrate composition.

- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein said L-tartaric acid is precipitated by adding an equimolar amount of CaCl₂.
- 11. The method of claim 9 further comprising drying and grinding said recovered calcium tartrate crystals.

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13. A powder comprising the composition of claim 1, wherein the powder is selected from the group consisting of cement, mortar, and concrete.

14. A method for preparing a calcium tartrate composition comprising particles having a mean particle size less than about 18 μ m, comprising the following steps:

submitting maleic acid to an enzymatic catalytic epoxidation thereby obtaining cis-epoxysuccinate,

submitting said cis-epoxysuccinate to the action of an epoxide hydrolase thereby producing L-tartaric acid;

precipitating said L-tartar c acid with CaCl₂ thereby obtaining calcium tartrate crystals; and

recovering the calcium fartrate crystals to obtain a calcium tartrate composition.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said L-tartaric acid is precipitated by adding an equimolar amount of CaCl₂.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising drying and grinding said recovered calcium tartrate crystals.

17. A plaster composition composition of claim 4.

18. A powder comprising the composition of claim 4, wherein the powder is selected from the group consisting of cement, mortar, and concrete.

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